

THE OBERLIN HERALD

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

**100 YEARS AGO — July 1903**  
Vollie Griffith writes from New York that he arrived safely and is having a fine time in the metropolis.

Dan Caster of Olive is building a fine frame residence on his farm.

Onley Claar bought 40 acres of land in Center Township that lays north of J. D. Flannigan's land.

J. H. Millen, the stage driver, says there was a bad hail storm at Dresden on Monday evening, breaking many window panes and destroying much of the standing grain.

Jennings beat Lucerne on the Fourth of July at the Allison celebration. Lucerne had the great Trimley of Hoxie in the box while Art Smith twirled for their team.

Art Roberts had the misfortune to lose his fine driving horse on Monday. It was one of the prettiest horses in town and valued at \$250.

One of our merchants kept a clerk outside the store on Saturday looking after the teams driven by women; the men staying at home to harvest.

The residence of M. E. Mix was struck by lightning during the storm Friday night.

Irwin Cook and Jesse Litton are both expecting to go to Washburn College this fall.

**75 YEARS AGO — July 1928**

Wheat yields have been more than expected. The best yield reported was that of John Williams of Allison Township who had a small tract of 16 acres on Solomon River bottom which had summer fallowed which yielded 51 bushels. The lowest yield report to the elevators has been 18 bushels per acre.

Our featured Decatur County citizens this week are Willard and Elmora (Love) Ufford who were married March 6, 1876, one half mile east of Oberlin. Mr. Ufford came to Decatur County with his brother, Jules, from Oneida County, New York, arriving by wagon train on April 14, 1874. He filed homestead papers on June 27, 1874 at Cawker City for the northeast quarter of Section 15 and timber claim papers on the southeast quarter of section 10, two miles southwest of Oberlin from Rome, Oneida County, New York.

The Uffords raised a family of five boys and two girls: Dan Ufford, Cedar Bluffs, Mr. Viola Jane Small, North Platte, Neb.; Mrs. Mandy Atwood, Abarr, Colo.; John Ufford, Goodland; Frank Ufford, Oberlin, and Herbert Ufford, on the old

homestead, and Elmer Ufford, Dresden.

Recent Marriages: July 12: Mr. Walter W. Walkey, 33 and Mrs. Rena McCann, 34, both of Dresden. Rev. C. E. Nash performed the ceremony. July 14: July 17: Mr. Arthur Summers, 22, of Selden, and Miss Ruth Brock, 22, of Jennings, were married by Judge Kulp.

Postmaster Margaret Meeks and her assistants are proud of their new quarters in the Grossniklaus building and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Roach, owners of the new building, are equally proud. The lighting system is modern and the room will be heated by steam from a furnace in the basement. Even a fine clock is provided for the lobby.

**50 YEARS AGO — July 1953**

John Brunk, the county's oldest citizen and only centenarian, observed his 102nd birthday July 13. Born near Cincinnati, Ohio, where he spent the first 19 years of his life, he came to Decatur County in 1885 and pre-empted a farm in Garfield Township.

Miss Marion Bigelow has been employed to teach Spanish and English at Decatur Community High School for the coming school year. A graduate of Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisc., she has also studied in Mexico and at the University of Denver.

William Lloyd Votapka, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Votapka of Jennings, recently received his M. D. from the KU Medical Center and is now interning at Wesley Hospital in Wichita. He attended Jennings High School and served with the U. S. Navy for 20 months.

Hospital news: Mr. and Mrs. Carl Votapka, a daughter, Carlen Diane, July 8; Mr. and Mrs. Elton O'Hare, Norcatur, a daughter, Cynthia Gay, July 10; Mr. and Mrs. Verle McClellan, Atwood, a daughter, July 5.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett McGee returned home Sunday from Chicago where they attended Lions International. Speakers included Miss Helen Keller, blind angel of the sightless world of darkness, who paid tribute to Lions International for their work for the blind and handicapped.

Kanona: Mrs. Maurice Foley has taken over the duties of telephone operator at Kanona replacing Mrs. Anna Petrasko who plans to go to Colorado to make her home.

Harold Hahn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hahn of Oberlin, is now in partnership with Robert Swan at the

Harvest Bakery in McCook.

Dennis Nelson spent Sunday with his mother, Mrs. Merle Nelson, enroute from Kansas City where he graduated from Kansas City Dental College. He was enroute to Denver where he will be associated with his uncle, Dr. Glenn Cody, in the Cody Dental Clinic.

Miss Lucille Coker of Scott City became the bride of Joseph Shaw, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Shaw of Oberlin on July 12 at the Christian Church in Scott City. They will make their home in Denver where both are employed.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Eiler announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Phyllis Jean, to Dole Metcalf, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Metcalf of Danbury.

**25 YEARS AGO — JULY 1978**

This year's wheat crop is now in storage but the loss of some 10,000 acres of wheat in the recent hail will put a dent in the county's economy to the tune of more than \$1 million. Although some of the better wheat in the area is reported to have averaged over 40 bushels, acres which were harvested in the hailed area came in under 15 bushels per acre. According to Agricultural, Stabilization and Conservation Service director Mike Gawith, the path 5 miles wide and 25 miles in length damaged an estimated 10,000 acres of wheat, 3,000 acres of milo and 1,000 acres of corn.

David Michael, who has been working as a physician's assistant in Oberlin, plans to leave here in mid-August to pursue additional medical training. A graduate of the physician's assistant training program at Wichita State University,

he also holds a degree in biology from the University of Missouri. He and his wife, Jan, are the parents of three children, Kelley, Kristen and Lori.

Dr. Mark Ohlde, a graduate of the University of Kansas Medical School, is expected to begin practice the first part of August in Oberlin, according to Dr. Ren Whitaker.

Mike Berry, editor of *The Oberlin Herald*, resigned his position with the paper this week, following an announcement that he has taken an editorial staff position on the Wichita Eagle-Beacon. Berry and his wife, Kathy, have two children, John and Cassy.

Janet Carmon, the reigning Miss Kansas Pageant in Pratt accompanied by her chaperone, Phyllis McKay. She is the 18-year-old daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. James Carmon of Oberlin and attends St. Paul Bible College in Minnesota.

Jerry Smith and Amy Anderson have returned from Japan where they were members of the International Lions Band which received a number one rating in the competition. Also attending the convention from Oberlin were Lions District Governor Ray Adams and his wife.

This year's foreign students at Decatur Community High School are soon to return to their homelands. Karla Krieger, an American Field Service student from of Salzburg, Austria, has made her home with the Don and Gisela Humes family while Mikael von Oldenskiold, a Youth for Understanding student, has lived with the Robert and Sally Henningson family.

## Let's Go to the Museum

By Sharleen Wurm, co-director

Here is one of the many interesting articles we have found in our weekly journey through the old newspapers. Taken from *The Oberlin Herald*, December 14, 1916:

*On Saturday there were 826 autos in Decatur County, probably worth \$578,200. This would buy nearly 30,000 acres of land at \$25 per acre, or nearly 10,000 cows at \$60 per head. Would the people of the county be better off if they had bought land and cows instead of autos?*

We have researched the following surnames: Dowty, Fees, Nemeth, Gustafson, Short, Krack, and Moser.

Roberta Petracek donated a big sack of memorial cards that we are indexing, along with the many we already have. Do you have any of these stuck in a drawer? We will gladly add them to our collection.

Some new souvenirs and craft items have come to our gift shop. Don't forget us if you need a special present or card.

## Jennings News

By Sonya Gillespie

The Jennings Commemorative Afghans are available again, but supplies are limited. These beautiful cotton throws feature pictures of the historic Jennings community. If you would like to order one (or more), please contact Roger Shimek, (785) 678-2465; Darlene Larue, (785) 678-2321; or Pastor Glenn, (785) 678-2663. The afghans are \$50 each. They can be mailed at an additional charge of \$6.

The Carter families celebrated the Fourth of July and Rachel Carter's birthday with lots of food, fun and visiting all weekend. Those attending were: Rachel and William Carter, Jennings; Sue and John Cichelero and children, St. Louis, Mo.; Karen and Alan Weber of Columbia, Mo.; Ann and Dick Graner

of Bethany, Mo.; Sherry and Allan Carter of Overland Park; June and Jim Wahlmeier and Amanda of Phillipsburg; Joni and Mike Wahlmeier and children, Amy and Josh Wahlmeier and children, all of Hays; Megan and Jess Carter, Oberlin; Julie and Ken Carter, Becky Carter, Diane and David Carter and children, Naomi Carter, Carol and Lawrence Carter, Craig Carter, Jeff Carter, all of Jennings; Denise and Scott and Candace Taylor, Dresden; and Heather and Don West and Grace of Weatherford, Texas.

Many of the group attended services at the Jennings United Methodist Church where Amanda Wahlmeier, a granddaughter of Rachel and William Carter, played two piano solos.

## Rexford News

By Zula Horinek

Louis Bastin of Fort Smith, Ark., Major Dale Bastin, stationed in Mons, Belgium, and Louise Lahan, Ryan and Jessica, of Gilbert, Ariz., were home the first week of July along with Kenneth Bastin of Selden, and Regana, Evan, Christopher and David Barnum of Colby, to celebrate the recent 50th wedding anniversary of their parents, Dena and Elendora Bastin.

The picnic in the park the Fourth of July was a success even if it was 100 degrees. Everyone enjoyed the fireworks, thanks to the PRIDE committee and City of Rexford.

Lawrence and Zula Horinek had a nice weekend and Fourth. Lawrence's sisters, Sally and Bob Sitz, of Arvada, Colo., and Marty Houston, Castle Rock, Colo., came to visit, as well as Zula's son, Gary Delzeit, and their son Larry and Summer Horinek, Andrew, Allyssa and Clyde, all of Colby. Everyone enjoyed a nice cookout, and played cards and dominoes. Sally, Bob and Marty watched the fireworks that evening.

Cleda Moeder went to Hutchinson recently to visit her son, Robert Moeder, and wife, Marsha. Her son, Greg, from Austin, Texas, came also and brought his daughter, to travel back to Rexford with her grandmother and spend a couple of weeks.

The wheat harvest is nearly completed around Rexford. It has been hot weather but most of the wheat has been good.

Guests of Deb Stepper this week are her nieces, Phyllis King and Janice Salcido, of Westminster, Calif.

Edna Colson attended her granddaughter Dianne's wedding in

Norton on July 5, to Jason Davis. They will reside in Norton. Dianne is the daughter of Kathryn and Richard Norton.

Bridge Club met with Bernada Zoberst. Helen Donelan and Betty Mountford were guests. Prizes were won by Joy Davis, Bobbie Young and Val Wark. The next meeting will be with Joy Davis in Colby.

Edna Colson spent from July 4 to July 6 in Norton, helping with the preparation for the wedding meal and reception at the Eagles Lodge.

Doris Jean Oliver and Bernada Zoberst are starting an outlet for the ladies to just meet and chat on Fridays at the Barn. All ladies are welcome for coffee and visiting.

Jean and Jennifer Sudduth, Mont., and Devlin, from San Diego, Calif., met Edna Colson at the Barn. They had a nice visit. Edna is Jennifer's grandmother.

Doris Jean Oliver attended the races at Colby Sunday evening. Her grandson, Jason Rogers, won first in the Bomber feature race. It was Jason's birthday and everyone was invited to the pit area for soft drinks after the races to help Jason celebrate.

Visiting Darrel and Marg Leh on June 20 were their great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Jardin, from Arkansas, and their grandson, Will McNatt, Santa Fe, N.M., visited on June 27. They each stayed for a week. Rodney McNutt, son of Darrel and Margie, spent the Fourth of July with them. Elizabeth Jardin planned to leave July 12 for home.

I want to remind anyone who has news items that I have a jar at the Barn so you can drop off your news, or you may call me at (785) 687-4216.

## Lyle News

By Helen Helm

Wheat harvest in the Lyle area is completed, and the farmers have moved on to other jobs. Church services were held at the Lyle Community Building Sunday as usual.

Gene Van Otterloo, Oberlin, drove out and took his sister-in-law, Marguerite Fullerton, to church.

On July 5, Mrs. Fullerton and Mrs. Margaret Magers visited at the Richard and Jane Englehardt home to see Pam Englehardt and her children, Tyler and Brittany. Mrs. Fullerton remained there while Mrs. Magers attended the 60th wedding anniversary for Joy and Hilaria Huff. That evening there was a birthday supper of pizza, ice cream, and cake for Tyler Hawk at the Englehardt home.

David Huff, Perryton, Texas,

visited his parents, Donna and Earnest Huff, over the weekend. He came on Friday and returned home Sunday. He helped a little with the harvest.

Martin Rinehart, Colby, spent Saturday with John and Helen Helm. He did some plumbing and helped in the yard. He was a dinner guest while at the farm. Mike, Aaron, Rebecca, and Jacob Helm made short work of the grass mowing Sunday and stayed to have a sandwich and lemonade with Grandpa and Grandma.

On Monday, Kathy Van Meter and Margaret Magers played cards at the Good Samaritan Center with the residents. Among those were Ivah Alexander and Ruth Laidig.

Tuesday, Mrs. Coleen Rippe

picked up Mrs. Magers, Mrs. Van Meter, and Mrs. Fullerton to go to the Van Cozd home in Beaver City. When they got to the home of June Jolly, she had just returned home with a new Grand Marquis, so she took them all to Beaver City to try it out. Don and Shanna Netzels were at Van's so they had a good visit and Mrs. Rippe accompanied the seniors to cards at the Senior Center later.

Mrs. Veda Wood entertained the Liberty Star Club at the Lyle Community Building on Wednesday. Mrs. Angie Wilson had the program and Mrs. Wood the activity. Others present were Mrs. Magers, Mrs. Van Meter, Henrietta Van Vleet and her guest, Laurene Van Otterloo.

Pat Schwab attended the ball game Thursday in Oberlin where her granddaughter, Samantha Schwab, was playing. Mathew Schwab accompanied his grandmother home when she went after groceries so he could help her.

June Jolly was a guest of Kathy Van Meter for a hobo party held by the First Security Bank in Holbrook. About 50 people attended, most in hobo costume. Because of the heat, it was held in the Lion's Building. Lunch was wrapped up in a square of cloth and drinks were served from tin cans.

Mrs. Van Meter drove to Wichita Friday to visit her daughter and husband, Jack and Sylvia Lovin. She stopped in Hoxie and took Mr. Lovin's mother, Dorothy Lovin, with her. Mrs. Lovin is 88 years old and was looking forward to the trip.

John and Helen Helm received a copy of *Nebraskaland* magazine this week which had a picture of their grandson, Zac Brashears. He was working on fishing experiments at Ogalallah that will enable biologists to manage the fish population.

## McGraw News

By Karl Launchbaugh

July 5-6, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Launchbaugh and family attended the wedding of Danea Ruda and Chad Cramer in Manhattan.

On Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Gayle Bainter, Wes, Raquelle, Weston, Jan and Ben Bainter went to Oberlin to celebrate Warren Bainter's birthday.

Friday through Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Lewis went to Steamboat Springs, Colo., to celebrate their 30th class reunion.

## Midway News

By Mary Lou Olson

Larry and Annette Newcomer of Yuma, Ariz., visited on Thursday and Friday with her aunt, Edla Olson, and other relatives. They and Mrs. Olson, and Steve and Arian Arnold had lunch together on Friday. The Newcomers were supper guests of Gordon and Norma Anderson. Mrs. Newcomer is the daughter of the late Walter and Hildur Olson.

Gary Erickson is recuperating satisfactorily after undergoing back surgery in Omaha on Thursday. His

wife, Mary Ann, and daughter, Debra Withington, were with him.

Congratulations to Kary and Jennifer Smith of Menomonie, Wis., who are the parents of a daughter, Molly Sue, who was born June 7, 2003. She weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. She has a brother, Nolan, 3. Paternal grandparents are Bob and Connie Smith, Eden Prairie, Minn. Wesley and Eulaine Benda, Oberlin, are her paternal great-grandparents.

## Herndon News

By Carol Ginther

Evelyn Lorentz is retiring after serving as Herndon City Clerk for the past 27 years. She is being honored from 9 to 11 a.m. today at the Herndon City Office and Mayor Dave Ketterl will present her with a plaque at 10 a.m.

Dawn Tongish and Eduardo de Lugo hosted a birthday party on June 28 at their home in Dallas, Texas, to honor their daughter, Devan, on her second birthday. Others present were her grandparents, Denis and Wilma Tongish, Herndon; June Tongish, godmother, Salt Lake City, Utah; Dee and Wayne Davis, and Brett, Shawnee, along with 40 other friends. The party included a barbecue, refreshments, Winnie the Pooh birthday cake, ice cream and a Winnie the Pooh piñata.

Denis and Wilma Tongish were overnight guests of Dave and Pat Tongish and family of Newton en route to Dallas. June Tongish of Salt

Lake City met them there and all helped Leslie Tongish celebrate her 18th birthday.

On Friday morning, June, Denis and Wilma drove to Dallas, where they were weekend guests of Dawn Tongish and Eduardo de Lugo and Devan. Dee and Wayne Davis and Brett of Shawnee also joined the group to help Devan celebrate her second birthday. En route home they were overnight guests of Jim and Amy Tongish, Zackery and Emily in Newton, before returning to their respective homes.

Frank and Wynemah Cox attended a birthday party for their three-year-old grandson, Sohn Michael, at the home of Mike, Roseanne and Shakia Rose Domsch. Other guests were Don, Sonia and Gene Domsch, Judy, Shayla, Ryan and Riley Cochran of Oberlin, and Irene Gertson of Atwood.

Dinner guests last Saturday of

Monica Solko were Ron and Rodney Solko, Oberlin, and Tom Solko, Herndon.

The Herndon Senior Citizens held a business meeting on July 2 at the Senior Center. Margaret Riener read the poem, "Untitled" and Dorothy Engleman read the poem, "The Painter."

Edie Pettera won the blackout game in bingo and Frank Hraha won the door prize. The next potluck will be today with Beth Hraha and Helen Marintzer as hostesses. The next meeting will be Aug. 6 with Maxine Reuber as hostess.

Members of the Herndon High School class of 1978 who celebrated their 25th alumni reunion this year were John Sattler, Brenda Harris Guess, Dr. James Cox, Jan Cederberg Olson, Rick Nemeth and Alan Solko. Those celebrating their 20th reunion were Geri Unger Reinsch, Karen Unger and Brenda Huss Peterson.

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